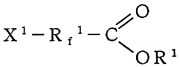
REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated July 1, 2008, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-4 for prosecution, without traverse. Claim 5 directed to a non-elected invention has been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the canceled subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 4. Claim 4 has been canceled. Particularly, Applicants have amended the claims so as to patentably distinguish over the cited prior art, namely, U.S. Patent 4,314,043 to Kojima, U.S. Patent 5,736,250 to Heeks et al and U.S. Patent 5,141,991 to Konno et al.

Applicants discuss on patentability of the amended claims as follows.

(1) A characteristic feature of the graft or the block polymer of the present invention is that it is obtained by reacting a fluorine containing compound having a fluorine containing elastomer segment obtained by polymerizing a fluorine containing monomer with a fluorine containing compound represented by the formula (1):



(1)

with a silicone rubber having at least one amino group.

(2) On the other hand, Kojima et al. discloses a graft copolymer having chemical linkages at the reactive site of fluorine-containing polymeric segments and an organopolysiloxane segment. However, the reactive site defined in the elastomer of the present

invention structurally differs from that of Kojima et al in which the reactive site is an epoxy group, an amino group, an organic acid group or a vinyl group.

(3) Heeks et al. discloses crosslinked elastomers of a latex fluorocarbon elastomer and a aminosiloxane. The latex fluorocarbon elastomer includes a cure site monomer, and as exemplified cure site monomers, 4-bromoperfluorobutene-1; 1,1-dihydro-4-bromo-perfluorobutene- 1; 3-bromoperfluoropropene- 1; 1,1-dihydro-3-bromoperfluoropropene-1 are described in Heeks et al.

However, the fluorocarbon elastomers including these cure site monomers structurally differ from the fluorine containing elastomer segment obtained by polymerizing a fluorine containing monomer with the fluorine containing compound represented by the formula (1):

(4) Further, Konno et al. discloses graft copolymerizing a specific organosilicon compound onto a polyamine-vulcanizable fluororubber. However, Konno et al. has no disclosure as to the reactive site of the polyamine-vulcanizable fluororubber. Therefore, Konno et al. does not disclose an elastomer segment obtained by polymerizing a fluorine containing monomer with the fluorine containing compound represented by the formula (1) of the present invention.

(5) Consequently, since the fluorine containing elastomer segments in Kojima et al., Heeks et al. and Konno et al structurally differ from that of the present invention, the graft or the block polymer obtained by reacting a fluorine containing elastomer segment obtained by polymerizing a fluorine containing monomer with the fluorine containing compound represented by the formula (1) with a silicone rubber having at least one amino group as defined in amended claim 1 is also not obvious over Kojima et al., Heeks et al. or Konno et al.

New claims 6-9, directed to a process for preparing the graft or a block polymer and depending primarily or secondarily from claim 1 contain all of the limitations of product claim 1. If claim 1 is patentable, so is the process for making the same. MPEP §821.04.

Allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-9 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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